

X.—On Some Rare Beetles in the Barker Collection of the Durban Museum, with descriptions of new species, Part I,

by

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THIS collection of Coleoptera includes a considerable number of unique specimens which have remained as such after the lapse of many years in spite of every endeavour to obtain further examples. I am fully alive to the inadvisability of describing species from single examples and have long refrained from doing so, but the evident rarity of some of them, which, on account of the opening up of the country and consequent destruction of their favourite haunts, is likely to increase until they are quite lost sight of, has induced me to take the present course. An additional reason for describing these rarities is that other collectors may have the luck to come across specimens of them, the value of which they might be quite oblivious of had they not the descriptions and history to refer to.

I have to thank Dr. L. Péringuey for his great kindness in comparing my types with insects in his collection and that of the South African Museum. Indeed, without his help in this respect, I should not have felt justified in making this my first contribution to descriptive classificatory work.

My thanks are also due to the Rev. J. O'Neil, S.J., of Salisbury, Rhodesia, for kindly lending me some valuable unique species from his collection for comparison. As two amongst these prove to be new, I have included descriptions of them below. With these exceptions, all the types are contained in the collection of the Durban Museum.

FAMILY CARABIDÆ.

SUB-FAMILY CARABINÆ.

HILETUS OXYGONUS, Chaud.

A small, black beetle having the appearance of a Harpalid, but with powerfully developed broad mandibles and geniculate antennæ. The two examples in the collection were taken by me in wet alluvium, under river weeds, at the Umhlatuzana River, near Malvern, in November, 1900. I have come across no further specimens in the course of many years collecting both at this spot and other favourable localities.

SUB-FAMILY HARPALINÆ.

TRIBE HEXAGONINI.

HEXAGONIA NATALENSIS, Chaud.

Species of this genus appear to exclusively harbour in the interstices of the leaves of reeds and rushes. Two species, *H. præusta*, Chaud. and *H. terminalis*, Gemm. are common; *H. immaculata*, Chaud. considerably less so in the coastal areas of Natal. *H. natalensis*, Chaud. is seemingly rare wherever it is met with, and I have only taken about half a dozen during many years collecting. It is found in association with the three other species, and all are occasionally attracted to light.

TRIBE ODONTOCANTHINI.

CASNONIA RUFOPICEA, Chaud.

Two examples; one taken flying at dusk at Malvern in September, 1900, the second at light, Mavern, 29th May, 1910. I have quite failed to come across this insect in the natural haunts of species of this genus, i.e., in damp places under herbage, river banks or marshes.

STENIDIA ABDOMINALIS, Chaud. and *S. APPROXIMANS*, Pér.

The habits of these species are the same as in the genus *Casnonia*, but, with the exception of a single example of the former taken by me at Malvern in 1896, I have only met with them at the electric lights in Durban. *S. abdominalis* was captured at light in December, 1907, and again on 21st April, 1908. The records of capture of *S. approximans*, Pér. are two examples taken in December, 1907, and a further specimen during the same or following month; all at the electric lights Durban, by Mr. H. W. Bell Marley.

TRIBE GALLERITINI.

DENDROCELLUS AUSTRALIS, Pér.

This appears to be a very rare insect. Though much sought for, I have taken a single example only, in July, 1898, under bark of the 'Ndohni (Waterboom) tree at Malvern. In appearance it is hardly

separable from *Drypta ruficollis*, Desj., but its pectinated claws demonstrate its arboreal habits and differentiate it from all the species of *Drypta*.

EUNOSTUS GUENZII, Chaud.

This is another rare insect, and I have only obtained it on two occasions, each time at light, viz., at Lower Unkomaas in November, 1898, and at Malvern on 30th December, 1901. Only one other species of this genus, *E. latreillei*, Casteln. from Madagascar, has so far been recorded, and nothing I believe is known of its habits beyond what may be surmised from its simple claws.

TRIBE HELLUONINI.

MACROCHILUS APPROXIMUS, Pér. and M. DORSALIS, Klug.

These are closely allied species, doubtfully distinct from one another. The example of *M. approximus* in my collection is larger than *M. dorsalis*, agreeing in this respect with the dimensions given by Dr. Péringuey in "Catalogue of Coleoptera of S. Africa" (1896)*, page 167. *M. dorsalis*, Klug. is there recorded from Cape Town only. In the Munich Catalogue its habitat is given as *India orientalis*, which Dr. Péringuey considers erroneous. The two examples (one of each species) were taken at Malvern, Natal; *M. dorsalis* at light in October, 1913, and *M. approximus* under stone on 16th October, 1908. Many species of this genus appear to have a wide range, but to the best of my knowledge are infrequently met with.

MACROCHILUS VARIANS, Pér., var. ?

A single example received from the Rev. J. A. O'Neil, on loan, who captured it at Salisbury, Rhodesia, 22nd December, 1917. It agrees in all essential points of shape and sculpture with Dr. Péringuey's description, except that no mention is made of the broad medial longitudinal groove to the prothorax, and its very fine central line.

In details of coloration the species shows considerable differentiation. Dr. Péringuey mentions having two examples before him "in one of which the elytra are concolorous and in the other there is a yellowish red band beginning near the base and extending, on the fourth and fifth intervals, to a short distance from the median part of the disk." The

* Trans. S. Afr. Phil. Soc. VII.

size of the humeral patch can therefore be safely estimated as a very variable factor. In the specimen before me, the shoulder patch extends from the base to below middle, and covers at its widest part the intervals 3 to 7, and is longest on the fifth and sixth intervals. The head and metasternum are not wholly black. The former is reddish from near vertex to base and the latter is wholly red. It is also fairly densely pubescent; the pubescence of the elytra rather long and decumbent. Length $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm., width $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

PLANETES QUADRICOLLIS, Chaud., var.

The single example belonging to the collection has been submitted to Dr. Péringuey (September, 1918), who has compared it with typical "*quadricollis*," and considers it a melanic variety of this species. He adds that the dorsal patch of *P. quadricollis* is very evanescent. It was taken at the electric lights, Durban, by Mr. H. W. Bell Marley in the summer of 1907-8.

TRIBE BRACHININI.

The Brachinini, though homogeneous as a group, are extremely difficult to determine specifically, on account of the great variability and the evanescent nature of their patterns.

The genus *Pherosophus* is particularly difficult on this account, and with further knowledge many of those at present recognised as species will probably be sunk as synonyms.

The examination of the genitalia of large series may afford some guidance later in their determination, though I have no personal evidence as to its reliability in this group.

Two of the commonest species of *Pherosophus* in the Natal coast regions are *P. fastidiatus*, L. and *P. capensis*, Chaud. These two species, and varieties graduating from the one to the other, are frequently found together, sometimes quite gregariously, under the same stone or shelter. The elytral markings vary from large to the smallest traces, and the ground colour from yellow to deep red. The sculpture varies but little, and these slight modifications bear no relationship to the colour or pattern of the insects.

It is, therefore, with some hesitation that I venture to add yet another species to this difficult genus. There are, however, in the following form some distinctive points that I have not met with in any other species of the genus with which I am conversant.

PHEROSOPHUS UBOMBOENSIS, sp. nov.

Head, prothorax, legs and underneath (except the abdomen which is more or less infuscated) dull yellow. The prothorax is margined with black exactly as in *P. bohemani*, Chaud. and the knees are infuscated. Elytra black, with a broad marginal band, commencing in a humeral spot and extending to the outer apical angle. The black ground immediately above the apex shades off into brownish; the tips of the costæ pallid. A little below middle a narrow yellow discal patch extends diagonally downwards from the middle of the sixth to the fourth intervals where it broadens upwards; elytra nearly parallel with the shoulders, only slightly sloping; narrowly costate, with both costæ and intervals rugosely, irregularly punctate, giving the surface a coriaceous appearance, especially towards the apical declivity; the intervals densely clothed with a short pubescence. Head faintly aciculate, longitudinally plicate near eyes.

Length 15 mm. Width 6 mm.

Hab. Ubombo, Zululand. Collected by H. W. Bell Marley.

The distinctive characteristic of this species is the punctuation of the costæ of the elytra and its more quadrate shape. The setæ of the legs and underneath are denser and longer than usual.

BRACHINUS MARLEYI, sp. nov.

Head, prothorax, palpi, and beneath reddish-yellow. The four basal joints of the antennæ reddish-yellow, with the third and fourth sub-apically banded with fuscous; terminal joints ferruginous and pubescent excepting the first two. Legs reddish-yellow, a shade lighter than the prothorax. Elytra black with the margins broadly yellow from base to outer apical angle where they widen into an irregularly rounded spot. The scutellum, and a large sub-triangular patch enveloping it, yellow, narrowly connected basally with the marginal band. On each side of the scutellar spot, and only separated from the humeral angles by a narrow strip of the black ground colour, a large elongate patch extends transversely from the fourth interval to its coalescence with an inward extension of the marginal band. The combined patch though widely joined is deeply indented by the ground colour above and beneath, at the points of juncture. The discoidal part of the patch extends to below middle. The apical declivity bears a large ovate spot which inclines diagonally towards the suture and apex, and covers the fifth to second intervals. It is narrowly separated from the spot at the outer apical angle. The

surface of the elytra is shagreen punctate, with shallow striæ and a somewhat dense reddish pubescence. Vertex of head nearly smooth, faintly aciculate. Prothorax shallowly plicate punctate, sparsely pubescent, sub-cordate, margins recurved and with a strongly defined median groove.

Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Ubombo, Zululand. Collected by H. W. Bell Marley. One example.

A robust looking insect of the Armiger group.

CREPIDOGASTER MATONGA, sp. nov.

Head, prothorax and antennæ light brick red. Prosternum, legs and basal joint of antennæ of a lighter testaceous colour. Elytra black without markings; abdomen reddish fuscous laterally darker; exposed dorsal segments nearly black. Antennæ long about 11 mm. or nearly as long as the insect. Prothorax elongate cordate, much drawn in at base which is truncate and broadly grooved on either side; the lateral margins briefly reflexed; immediately below the apex a fine carinate, slightly sinuate transverse line, which does not quite reach the apical angles and is intersected in the middle by the median line. Both head and prothorax are finely shagreened. Elytra closely shagreened; striæ shallow, but clearly defined; briefly pubescent; the pubescence black. Shoulders narrow but very prominent; ovately, but not largely, amplified; the apex deeply emarginate.

Length $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width, a trifle over 5 mm.

Hab. Ngxwala Hill, Zululand. Collected by L. Bevis.

CREPIDOGASTER MARGINICOLLIS, sp. nov.

Head, palpi, first two joints of antennæ, legs and beneath testaceous yellow; legs a shade lighter than head and prothorax. The lateral margins of the prothorax, elytra and the second and third joints of the antennæ infuscated. The remaining joints of the antennæ light red. The elytra are of the same testaceous ground colour clouded over the whole surface with fuscous brown, except only ill-defined basal and sub-apical patches. The basal or scutellar patch is composed of coalescing inter-striæ rays, and on either side of it are two further narrow ill-defined rays, all of which reach from base to about one-third of the length of the elytra. Close to the lateral margins and a short distance above apex, a small transverse ray-like yellowish spot, also somewhat ill-defined. Exposed dorsal segments of abdomen dark brown. Head, prothorax and elytra very closely punctulate and

briefly pubescent. There are no striæ to the elytra. Prothorax elongate cordate with a shallow median groove.

Length 5 mm. Width $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Salisbury, Rhodesia. Captured by, and type in the collection of, the Rev. J. A. O'Neil.

CREPIDOGASTER OBSCURA, sp. nov.

Vertex of head and prothorax reddish-brown; antennæ, epistome and mandibles light red, the latter with the tips infuscated. Palpi flavescens with bases of terminal joints ringed with brownish. Elytra pectus and abdomen fuscous brown. The elytra is a shade darker than the abdominal segments. Vertex of head longitudinally convex, finely and closely aciculate punctate. The eyes small and depressed. The prothorax a little more finely punctulate than the head and with a narrow median line interrupted in the centre. It is very little amplified anteriorly and not much wider than the head; obliquely narrowed to basal angle which is rounded and not prominent; lateral edges narrowly marginate. Elytra very short, and very closely aciculate punctate, with the striæ only faintly indicated; very briefly pubescent. There is a line of spaced punctures above the epipleuræ; the apex not deeply emarginate.

Length 6 mm. Width 3 mm.

Hab. Malvern, Natal. Taken by me under leaf detritus in garden, March, 1913.

This is a very distinct species with narrower head than usual, small, non-prominent eyes, and slender prothorax which is not sinuated laterally above the basal angles.

TRIBE LEBIINI.

Of the genus *Callida*, Déj. the collection contains no less than sixteen, thirteen of which are described and determined species and sub-species. The remaining three are probably new, but the great similarity of facies of the majority of this group enjoins caution in dealing with very limited material. *Callida marginicollis*, Chaud. a beautiful and very distinct species appears to have a very wide range, though I have only met with it once, i.e., in July, 1900, on the Upper Umlazi River, Natal, when two examples were taken on 'Ndohne or waterboom tree. Hitherto it has only been recorded from Cape Colony (Knysna) and the Transvaal (Potchefstroom). Most of the species of the group, however, appear to be local in their incidence.

METALLICA sp. ?

This is a splendid little insect, black with metallic purplish-red elytra. A single example was found by me on the 14th June, 1907, dead on a leaf in my garden at Malvern. It must either be a straggler from the north-eastern fauna, or an extraordinary rare insect. It is evidently allied to *M. purpuripennis*, Chaud. but differs from the description in many essential details. It has, unfortunately, lost some of its members.

Length about 9 mm.

PLAGIOPYGA TRANSVAALENSIS, sp. nov.

Head, prothorax, palpi and beneath rich chestnut red; mandibles black. Antennæ: first three joints red like the head, glabrous, the remaining joints ferruginous and pubescent. Elytra black, opaque, but showing an underlying reddish tinge in very strong light; epipleuræ red. Legs reddish; the femora except the knees a shade lighter. Head: epistome elongate; labrum broader than long, truncate; vertex smooth, without punctures. Prothorax slightly broader than long; lateral margins gently rounded from apex to above middle, thence gradually narrowed to the rounded basal angle; disc convex finely plicate, and with a median groove; margins briefly recurved and somewhat rugose within. Elytra depressed, finely striated, intervals plane.

Length 10 mm. Width 4 mm.

Hab. Pilgrim's Rest, Transvaal. Collected by A. Galloway.

More depressed and less elongate than *P. cyclogona*, Chaud. The colour of the elytra different to any of those previously described from S. Africa.

DEMETRIAS NATALENSIS, Chaud. and PELIOCYPAS NATALENSIS, Chaud.
(in litt.).

I cannot refrain from referring to the confusion caused by the use of the same name for these two closely allied insects. In colour and general appearance they are almost identical; in size alone is there any differentiation (and that is only as $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. is to 6 mm.) so far as the outer skeleton is concerned. The generic characters of *Demetrias* and *Peliocypas* only differ in that the former has the paraglossæ a little longer and the latter much longer than the ligula. Where the facies and habits are the same, as they are in the case of these two insects, the generic characters appear very insufficient to justify their separation.

The description of *Peliocypas natalensis* as given in Péringuey's Catalogue of S. African Coleoptera is copied from de Chaudoir's manuscripts and was not published by him. I would therefore suggest that the name be altered to *Peliocypas chaudiroi*.

XENITENUS MARSHALLI, sp. nov.

Fulvescent. Head, mouth-parts and antennæ reddish fulvous. Elytra fulvescent with the whole discoidal area covered with a diffuse fuscous brown band, leaving only a somewhat ill-defined space, on either side of the suture and the lateral margins, of the ground colour. Head smooth and very shiny without punctulation; on either side between and extending below the eyes an irregular plicated groove. Prothorax a little wider at apex than at base; angles, both anterior and posterior, sharply rounded; outer sides straight, narrowly recurved; apex emarginate; base truncate. The disc very shiny with faint transverse plications; a well-defined central groove intersected sub-basally by a short transverse impression. Elytra sub-parallel; shoulders broadly rounded; surface shiny and faintly aciculated; striæ shallow, especially towards sides where they become hardly defined; spaced punctures on the third, fifth and seventh intervals.

Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Salisbury, Rhodesia. Taken under bark in October, 1898, by my friend, Dr. G. A. K. Marshall, after whom I propose to name it.

KLEPSIPHERUS MALVERNENSIS, sp. nov.

Head, prothorax, elytra and underneath pitch black, shiny. Antennæ, palpi and tarsi red. Legs piceous red; the femora a shade darker than the tibiæ. Vertex smooth, very shiny; neck shallowly transversely grooved and narrowed basally; on either side between the eyes an elongate rugose groove which reaches down as far as the clypeus. Apex of prothorax deeply emarginate; angles sharply rounded; lateral sides gently amplified for a short distance, then nearly straightly narrowed to the posterior angle which is rounded, base truncate; a well-defined median groove reaches from centre of the apical emargination to a short distance above base, where it deflects outwardly into elongated sub-marginal impressions on either side, the whole surface of the disc strongly transversely plicate. Elytra more than double the width of the prothorax at base, short; basal and apical angles broadly rounded, sides nearly straight, drawn in a little towards apex and sinuate between the outer and inner angles; deeply punctate, striæ with the intervals almost carinate.

Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Malvern, Natal. A single example taken by me under bark in July, 1898.

Closely allied to *Klepsipherus crenato-striatus*, Pér., from which it differs in its shorter, more convex form, more rounded shoulders, its strongly plicated and grooved prothorax and the much deeper striation of the elytra. The coloration is also quite different.

PHLÆOZETUS DORSALIS, Pér. var. ?

Two examples taken at light at Isipingo in March, 1898. These were submitted to Dr. Peringuay and pronounced by him as "hardly distinguished from *P. dorsalis*."

I have not seen *P. dorsalis*, which in the Catalogue of the Coleoptera of S. Africa (1896)* is recorded only from Cape Town, but judging by the description and by the figure of the elytron (Plate V., no. 15) my species differs in the dorsal black patch being broadly truncate in the anterior part instead of being produced triangularly from the suture. In this respect it agrees exactly with the description of *P. ambulans*, Pér. from Salisbury, Rhodesia.

LEBIA UMTALIA, Pér.

A single example taken by me in reeds, river bank, 'Mhlatuzan, Natal, February, 1899. Regarding this Dr. Péringuey says, "Slightly more massive but same species."

Judging by the description of *L. umtalina* (sic) in "Annals of S. African Museum," vol. iii, p. 179, it differs materially from my species as follows:

	<i>Lebia umtalia.</i>	<i>Lebia sp. mihi.</i>
Length	$6\frac{1}{2}$ mm.	8 mm.
Width	3 mm.	$3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
Clypeus	Black.	Red.
Antennæ	Rufescent, with 4-6 joints deeply infusate.	Rufescent (all the joints).
Supra apical band	—reaches margin and is connected by a narrow black band along the suture with the basal patch.	does not reach margins and is connected by a broad band (covering 1st and 2nd intervals) with the basal patch.

* Trans. S. Afr. Phil. Soc. VII.

It appears to be more closely allied to *L. fortuita*, Pér., in which the elytral pattern and the colour of the antennal joints are identical. It is, however, a more massive insect and differs in the shape of the prothorax, which is more transverse and not sinuate above the basal angle. The striae also are quite devoid of punctuation which is present in *L. fortuita*.

LEBIA NATALIS, Pér. and LEBIA VERISIMILIS, Pér. (in litt).

As the result of correspondence on the subject, subsequent to the publication of the description of *L. natalis* (Trans. S. Afr. Phil. Soc., vol. x, p. 323, 1898), the name *L. verisimilis*, in litt. was submitted to me by Dr. Peringuey for the smaller of the two species, but so far no description has been published.

Unfortunately, the description of *L. natalis* requires revision as it confounded (probably from want of sufficient material for comparison) two very distinct species as one. The description, however, can only apply to the larger species as the metasternum is described as being black, which is correct for *L. natalis* but not for *L. verisimilis*, in which the whole of the pectus is red.

The extreme measurement, 8 mm., is correct for *L. natalis*, which appears to be constant in size. *L. verisimilis*, per contra, varies a good deal in size from $5\frac{1}{2}$ –7 mm. The coloration above is the same in both species, but in shape they differ considerably. *L. natalis* bears the general facies of *L. (Liopeza) thoracica*, Boh., i e., long slender filiform antennae; elongate legs and tarsi, wide shoulders which with almost parallel sides give it a more quadrate appearance. *L. verisimilis* has shorter sub-filiform antennae and the more oval convex shape of *Lebia fraterna*, Pér. In *L. verisimilis* the prothorax is more transverse, the elytra more amplified beyond middle; less depressed with deeper and punctulated striae. In *L. natalis* the striae are not, or scarcely perceptibly, punctured; the intervals are less raised and the surface colour duller. The space between and below eyes in *natalis* is coarsely longitudinally plicated. In *verisimilis* it is confusedly punctured, the plications, if perceptible, are immediately adjacent to the eyes.

Both species are not uncommon if sought for under bark in damp spots during the dry (hibernating) season. The waterboom ('Ndohne) tree is the favourite resort of these and large number of our *Lebiides*.

LEBIA MONTICOLA, sp. nov.

Head black. Prothorax, mouth-parts and the first three joints of the antennae red. The remaining joints ferruginous. Legs flavescent.

Elytra rich yellow with a black sutural band covering the two first intervals from base to about middle, whence it widens outwards (at the commencement obliquely) into a broad transverse band which covers the eighth interval but does not reach the margin. The band is irregularly sinuous above and below. Underneath reddish-brown darker laterally and on the anal segments. Vertex of head and frontal parts closely punctured and longitudinally plicate between the eyes. Prothorax: anterior part to about one-third its length widely rounded; thence to posterior angle (which is sharp and recurved) nearly straight; rugosely, transversely plicate over the whole disc, which is divided by a well-defined median groove. Elytra nearly twice the width of the prothorax at base, shoulders rounded, sides very slightly amplified, nearly parallel in fact; punctate striate, intervals plane. Antennæ filiform, long and slender; the first three joints excepted, pubescent and bearing a long seta towards the apex of each articulation. Legs and tarsi elongate; claws quadripectinate.

Length 8 mm. Width $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Hab. Van Reenen, Natal. A single example taken by me in December, 1907.

The antennæ, legs and tarsi are even relatively longer than those of *L. natalis*, Pér. and *L. thoracica*, Boh. It should precede *L. insidiosa*, Pér. which is a sort of connecting link with species of the *L. fortuita*, *L. umtalia* class characterised by nearly straight outer sides, antennæ moderately long, sub-filiform.

LEBIA.

Without venturing to attempt a re-grouping of the large numbers of S. African species of this genus, for which the material at my disposal is quite insufficient, I would suggest placing the *Nematopeza* section at the end of the list, for in their more robust convex forms they distinctly approximate to *Astata*. Species which I take to belong to this group are *L. dregei*, Chaud., *L. nobilis*, Boh., *L. invicta*, Pér., *L. evicta*, Pér., *L. modesta*, Boh., *L. fraterna*, Pér., *L. verisimilis*, Pér. in litt., *L. bicolor*, Pér., etc. *L. natalis*, Pér., I think takes its most suitable place after *L. thoracica*, Boh., with which it has in common filiform antennæ and elongated tarsi. *L. immaculata*, Boh., I have not yet come across, but judging by its description "outer sides nearly straight," it may find its place next to *L. natalis*.

ASTATA TETRAGRAMMA, Chaud.

Dr. Péringuey, on page 337 of his 2nd Supplement of the Coleoptera of S. Africa (1898)*, refers to the melanic form of the above as allied to *Astata cognata*, Pér. He has, however, entirely omitted to describe these melanic forms in his description of the species, pages 265-6 of the Catalogue. His only mention of a melanic form of this species, is his denial of Chaudoir's assertion that *Lebia immaculata*, Boh., is a variety of *A. tetragramma*, Chaud. The Barker collection contains a good series of the varietal forms of the species. The four-spotted type form appears to be fairly constant in the size and shape of the spots.

Var. A. with an inclination to a darkening of the ground colour has quite lost the anterior dorsal spots, and the sub-apical spots are much reduced in size; in one example the spot is sub-evanescent on the outer side, and only two intervals show the colour clearly.

Var. B. The spots have entirely vanished leaving the elytra of a unicolorous black.

ASTATA COGNATA, Pér.

This varies considerably, as the description shows, from a deep flavus central space with defined borders to the extreme melanic type showing no trace of a lighter discoidal area.

ASTATA CONSORS, Pér.

The dark forms with unicolorous black or very faint traces of piceous red on the discoidal area, appear to be the commonest, as they are also the typical form of this interesting species. One example, however, shows a fairly well diffused rounded spot of piceous red on either side, a little above the middle, whence it is narrowly produced basally and reaches the shoulder.

The habits of this species differ somewhat from the other *Astata* known to me. I have only taken it harbouring in reeds on river banks. The other species appear to affect, like most of the true *Lebia*, the bark of trees.

ASTATA PICEIPENNIS, Motsch.

This fine species shows no disposition towards variation.

* Trans. S. Afr. Phil. Soc. X.

LEBISTINIDA PULCHRA, Pér.

This appears to be an extremely rare, as well as a very beautiful, species. The type was taken by my friend, Dr. G. A. K. Marshall at the Lower Umkomaas River, under bark, about the year 1896 or 1897. I believe that the only specimen since obtained is a single example taken by me in November, 1902, near the mouth of the Ifafa River. Both these localities are on the Natal south coast and only a few miles apart.

ARSINOE NITIDA, sp. nov.

Head black, with an ill-defined space on vertex reddish. Labrum, palpi, terminal half of mandibles and first two joints of antennæ deep red; third and fourth joints of the antennæ piceous, the remainder ferruginous. Prothorax black, narrowly piceous red about apical angles. Elytra black with sub-humeral, and deeply sinuated, supra-apical patches. The anterior patch extends diagonally from the third to eighth intervals, commencing narrowly on the third, produced a little downwards on the fourth and fifth intervals and a little upwards on the sixth interval but not reaching the base. It is of about the same width and widest on the fourth and sixth intervals. The supra-apical patch extends from the suture to the sixth interval. It is produced sharply upwards on the third and fifth, and is sinuate towards apex on the first and fourth intervals. It is widest on the third and fifth intervals. Legs and abdomen piceous red. Head deeply punctulated, a little scrobiculate on either side of the epistome. Discoidal part of prothorax nearly smooth, faintly transversely wrinkled; lateral margins sharp, recurved and rugose within. Elytra punctate-striate with the intervals plane and finely punctulated.

Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width $3\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Hab. Northdene, Natal. A single example taken by me under bark in May, 1900.

Judging by the description it is very nearly allied to *A. plausibilis*, Pér., and may only prove a varietal form with a less developed pattern. The most important difference lies in the incidence of the sinuation of the respective patterns. In *A. plausibilis* the anterior patch is described as produced downwards on the third interval and upwards on the fourth and fifth where it connects with the base. In *A. nitida* it is very narrow on the third, produced downwards on the fourth and fifth and upwards only on the sixth where it does not nearly reach the base. It is also considerably smaller than *A. plausibilis*, and comparatively broader.

ARSINOE O'NEILI, sp. nov.

Head, palpi (tips lighter) and first three joints of antennæ red, the remaining joints darker. Prothorax, underneath and the legs fulvescent. Elytra black, with on either side an elongate spot reaching from base to about one-quarter of its length, covering the intervals 4-7; a smaller sub-apical rounded spot near to, but not reaching, suture. Head and prothorax deeply punctulated. The vertex of head and sides of the prothorax more coarsely so. The prothorax is of the usual shape, but the lateral margins above the basal angles are less sinuated and recurved than in *A. quadri-guttata*. Elytral-striae hardly perceptible, and the intervals finely punctulated.

Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width 3 mm.

Hab. Salisbury, Rhodesia. Received from my friend Rev. J. A. O'Neil, S.J., whose correspondence and help through a long term of years has been of much encouragement and the greatest interest to me.

In coloration, pattern, and in the lesser constriction of the prothorax at the basal angles, this species approximates to the facies of *Lobodontus gentilis*, Pér., which also occurs in the same neighbourhood.

LOBODONTUS CONJUNCTUS, sp. nov.

Head black, with centre of vertex, frontal, and mouth parts piceous red; mandibles tipped with black. Antennæ, legs and underneath red; the abdomen piceous marginally. Prothorax black, very narrowly margined with reddish. Elytra black, with on either side of the base an elongate sub-quadrate reddish flavescent patch, reaching from the shoulder to about one-third its length and covering the intervals from the fourth to their junction with a reddish marginal band. On either side of the suture above the apex two small laterally rounded spots which coalesce and form an ovate patch a little indented anteriorly. Vertex and base of the head smooth and shiny. Prothorax: apical angles sharply produced forward; lateral sides gently rounded to about middle and thence sinuately narrowed to the basal angle which is sharp; margins narrowly recurved. Elytra shiny; punctato-striate with the intervals slightly convex. Two punctures on the third interval, and the lateral margins foveately punctured from shoulder to apex.

The pattern and coloration are almost identical with those of *L. trisignatus*, Chaud., but in the narrower, more sinuate shape of the prothorax and the more robustly formed head it approximates to species of the genus *Arsinoe*. But for the palpi, which are those

of a *Lobodontus* (not abruptly truncate), I should have attached it unhesitatingly to this genus. It is an interesting connecting link between these two genera and makes it doubtful whether *Lobodontus* is other than a synonym of *Arsinoë*.

Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width 3 mm.

Hab. Salisbury, Rhodesia.

HAPLOPEZA UMTALIA, sp. nov.

Head and prothorax metallic greenish-blue. Elytra dark metallic purplish-blue; antennæ black, the first three joints glabrous, the other joints pubescent and setose. The basal joint more or less reddish at base. Palpi and mouth-parts rufescent. Legs clear flavus with the tarsi and apex of the tibiæ infuscated. Prosternum and pectus blue-black, abdomen and pygidium flavous. Of the same size and shape as *H. violacea*, Boh. Head and prothorax identical, but the elytral striæ are deeper and punctulated; the intervals decidedly convex instead of plane. It may be only a local race of *H. violacea* which in some examples shows a disposition towards reddish in the posterior femora and about the knees, but the sculpture of the elytra is distinctly different and the antennæ are more pubescent.

Length 7 mm. Width 3 mm.

Hab. Umtali, Rhodesia.

PENTAGONICA O'NEILI, sp. nov.

Head black to piceous-red; mouth-parts and first three joints of antennæ dark brown; terminal joints of latter redder and lighter. Thorax flavus; legs and pectus pale flavescent; abdomen brownish. Elytra dilute fuscous brown, broadly margined with pale flavescent.

Head and prothorax smooth; the latter transverse, widest at about middle where it is sharply angled and setose. Thence it contracts rapidly to base, which is very narrow, with scarcely a trace of sinuation at outer basal angle. The disc convex, with a narrow median groove which deflects outwardly a little above base; the lateral margins sharp and recurved. Elytra shallowly punctato-striate with the intervals plane; shoulders squarely rounded; sides nearly straight to beyond middle and gently rounded to apex.

Length $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Width 2 mm.

Hab. Salisbury, Rhodesia. Four examples received from my friend the Rev. J. A. O'Neil, S.J., to whose generosity I am indebted for a great many new and interesting species included in my collection.

PENTAGONICA ANTENNATA, sp. nov.

Head fulvescent; prothorax, mouth-parts and legs flavus; antennæ (excepting the first four joints which are pitchy brown) very pale flavescens. Elytra pale fuscous brown with the outer margins broadly flavescens. Prosternum and pectus flavus; abdomen brownish.

Size and sculpture almost identical with that of *P. o'neili*, but the prothorax is broader and a little more sinuate below the outer basal angles. The elytra also are shorter giving it a more quadrate appearance. The narrow space at base below the median line of the prothorax, as well as the scutellum and immediately round it, is coarsely punctured. In *P. o'neili* these parts are nearly smooth. The most distinctive feature of this species, however, is the sharp contrast between the pitchy first four joints and the yellowish-white of the succeeding joints of the antennæ.

Length $4\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Width 2 mm.

Hab. Malvern, Natal. A single example found on the bark of a fallen tree on 19th October, 1913.

ORTHOGONIUS DUBIUS, sp. nov.

Head, prothorax and elytra piceous red; the prothorax a shade redder than head and elytra. Palpi, first three joints of antennæ, legs, pygidium and beneath of a rich chestnut red. Terminal joints of antennæ piceous and pubescent. Head finely transversely plicate. Prothorax gently rounded from apical angle to above middle, thence nearly straight to basal angle, which is moderately sharp and narrowly recurved. Sparsely punctulate and rugosely plicate over the whole disc and with a shallow median groove. Elytra elongate; four times as long as the prothorax; shoulders squarely rounded, twice as wide as the prothorax at base, deeply striate, very faintly punctulate with the intervals carinate. Both intermediate and posterior tibiæ straight and slender as in *O. capucinus*, Boh.

Length $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Width 7 mm.

Hab. Salisbury, Rhodesia.

Evidently a near ally of *O. æmulus*, Pér., with the description of which it agrees in most respects, but the posterior tibiæ are not in the least incurved. The four examples before me show no variation in size.

Dr. Péringuey states of this genus that the fourth tarsal joint of the anterior tarsi are bilobate. This is evidently an error, as none of those in my possession, i.e., *O. caffër*, Boh., *O. brevicornis*, *O. capucinus*, and the present species, show anything more than broad incisions.